







Fourth Congress

OF THE UNITED STATES:

AT THE

FIRST SESSION.

Begun and held at the city of Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania, on Monday, the seventh of December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-sive.

AN ACT

For establishing trading bouses with the Indian tribes.

Sec. 1. DE it enabled by the Senate and Houfe of Reprofessions of the United for the Prefixence of the United States of America, in Compres of glorabled. That is thall be lawful for the Prefixent of the United States to ellablish reading houfes at fuch polts and places on the western and fourhern frontiers, or in the Indian country, as he shall judge most convenient for the purpose of carrying on a liberal trade with the several Indian mations, within the limits of the United States.

Sec. 2. And be if pather enailed. That the Predident be authorized to appoint an agent for each trading house efablifieds, whole duty if hall be, to receive, and difpole of in trade, with the Indian nations aforementioned, fuch goods as he fluid be directed by the Predident of the United States to receive and difpole of, as a forefail, according to the rules and orders which the Predident fluid predictly, according to the rules and orders which the Predident fluid predictly, be encerted or interelled in any trade, commence or barterly or inferfelly, be encerted or interelled in any trade, commence or barterly with the property what we have a support of the pable account; and full trules are supported by the property whatever, which that loome into his hands, of for which, in good faith, he ought for to account, and to perform all the duties required of him by this act; and his accounts fail be dutie required of him by this act; and his accounts full be duties and transfinited to the Secretary of the Treadry of the United States of the Secretary of the Treadry of the United States of the Secretary of the Treadry of the United States of the Secretary of the Treadry of the United States of

Sec. 3. And he it further enalted. That the agents, their clerks, or other perfoas employed by them, that no be, directly or indirectly, concerned or intercled in carrying on the bufines of trade or commerce, on their own, or any other than the public account, or take, or apply to his or their own, or any combinant or gain for negotiating or transfating any bufines or trade, during their agency or employment, other than is provided by this act. And if any toch perion shall offend against any of the prohibitions aforefait, he or they shall be deemed guity of a mildementor, and shall upon conviction thereofs, forfait to the United States, a sum not exceeding one thouland afternative he incapable of holding any office under the United States: Provided, That if any other person, than a public profecutor, shall give information in the production of any stock officese, upon which a profecution and conviction thall be had, one half the aforesaid pennity, when received, shall be for the use of the person giving sinch information.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the prices of the goods supplied to, and to be paid for by the Indians, shall be regulated in such manner, that the capital stock furnished by the United States may not be diminished.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted, That during the continuance of this act, the Prefident of the United States be, and he is hereby authorifed to draw annually from the Treasury of the United States, a sum not exceeding eight thonfand dollars, to be applied, under his direction, for the purpose of paying the agents and clerks; which agents shall be allowed to draw out of the public fupplies, two rations each, and each clerk, one ration per day.

And be it further enacted, That one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, exclusive of the allowances to agents and clerks, be, and they are hereby appropriated for the purpose of carrying on trade and intercourse with the Indian nations, in the manner aforementioned, to be paid out of any monies unappropriated in the Treasury of the United States.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacled, That if any agent or agents, their clerks, or other persons employed by them, shall purchase, or receive of any Indian, in the way of trade or barter, a gun or other article commonly used in hunting; any instrument of husbandry, or cooking utensil, of the kind usually obtained by Indians, in their intercourse with white people; any article of clothing (excepting fkins or furs) he, or they shall, respectively, forfeit the fum of one hundred dollars for each offence, to be recovered by action of debt, in the name, and to the use of the United States, in any court of law of the United States, or of any particular state having jurisdiction in like cases, or in the supreme or superior courts of the territories of the United States: Provided, that no fult shall be commenced except in the state or territory within which the cause of action shall have arisen, or the defendant may reside: And it shall be the duty of the superintendants of Indian affairs and their deputies, refpectively, to whom information of every fuch offence shall be given, to collect the requifite evidence, if attainable, and to profecute the offender, without delay.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacled, That this act shall be in force for the term of two years, and to the end of the next fession of Congress thereafter, and no longer.

JONATHAN DAYTON, Speaker of the House of | Representatives. | JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States, 2

and President of the Senate.

APPROVED-April the eighteenth, 1796.

Go: WASHINGTON, Prefident of the United States.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary for the Department of War return to the respective district Judges, the names of all such perfons, as have been transinitted to him by the several district Judges, purfuant to the act for the regulation of claims to invalid pentions; and in whose cases, the examining physicians have neglected to specify the ratio of disability;—together with such defective returns of physicians. And the said Diftrict Judges, respectively, shall forthwith cause the examining physicians to



specify the several rates of disability, which have been so neglected; or, in case of sckeness, death or removal of one or both such physicians, to make me appointments, and cause the several rates of disability to be specified, and by the sid physicians returned to them, as soon as may be; of which, help shall make terum, to the Secretary at War, who shall, at the selfsion of Congress holden next after, or at the time of such receipt, make return thereof, with such observations, as he may think proper to subjoin, that the proper order may be taken thereous Dy Congress.

JONATHAN DAYTON, Speaker of the Houfe of Seprefentatives. Solid Dohn ADAMS, Vice-Prefident of the United States, and Prefident of the Senate.

Approved-April the eighteenth, 1796.

Go: WASHINGTON, Prefident of the United States

Deposited among the Rolls, in the office of the department of State.

Simothy Victoring

Secretary of State.









